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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

8791 7590 09/19/2008

BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP
1279 OAKMEAD PARKWAY
SUNNYVALE, CA 94085-4040

EXAMINER

DIVECHA, KAMAL B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2151

DATE MAILED: 09/19/2008

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/991,234

11/17/2001

Ravi Chandra

4906.P094

4890

TITLE OF INVENTION: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MULTIPLE CONTEXTS AND LAYER 3 VIRTUAL PRIVATE NETWORKS

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1440	\$300	\$0	\$1740	12/19/2008

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

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Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: **Mail** Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
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INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

8791 7590 09/19/2008

BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP
 1279 OAKMEAD PARKWAY
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Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/991,234	11/17/2001	Ravi Chandra	4906.P094	4890

TITLE OF INVENTION: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MULTIPLE CONTEXTS AND LAYER 3 VIRTUAL PRIVATE NETWORKS

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1440	\$300	\$0	\$1740	12/19/2008

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
DIVECHA, KAMAL B	2151	709-242000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
- ☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 _____
- (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 _____
- 3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee
- ☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
- ☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s); (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
- ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- ☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/991,234	11/17/2001	Ravi Chandra	4906.P094	4890
8791	7590	09/19/2008	EXAMINER	
BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP 1279 OAKMEAD PARKWAY SUNNYVALE, CA 94085-4040			DIVECHA, KAMAL B	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2151	
DATE MAILED: 09/19/2008				

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 704 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 704 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/991,234	CHANDRA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	KAMAL B. DIVECHA	2151	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 6/4/08.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 6-8,23-25 and 30-32.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>20080604</u> 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |
|---|---|

/John Follansbee/ SPE 2151

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Eric Replogle on August 28, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

Please cancel claim 9 and claim 33.

Please amend claims 6, 23 and 30 as follows:

6. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method comprising:
maintaining a first set of information for a first layer 3 virtual private network (VPN) context, the first set of information for including a first value identifying the first layer 3 VPN context;
separately maintaining a second set of information for a second layer 3 VPN context, the second set of information for including a second value identifying the second layer 3 VPN context, wherein the first and second sets of information corresponds to a first and second customers accessing a backbone and maintained within a single network element of the backbone, and wherein the first and second sets of information include sufficient information to establish the first and second layer 3

VPNs contexts with other network elements of the backbone for the first and second customer respectively;

associating the first value with a first route distinguisher;

associating the second value with a second route distinguisher;

maintaining on a single network element a single exterior gateway protocol (EGP) table for the first and second layer 3 VPN contexts, wherein the single EGP table comprises EGP forwarding entries for the first and second layer 3 VPN contexts;

maintaining a data structure for the single EGP table, the data structure indicating the association between first value and the first route distinguisher and between the second value and the second route distinguisher;

performing mappings between the first value and the first route distinguisher and between the second value and the second route distinguisher with the data structure;

maintaining on the single network element a separate VPN context specific first routing table and a first interior gateway protocol (IGP) table for the first layer 3 VPN

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context, wherein the first IGP table comprises IGP forwarding entries for the first layer 3 VPN context and the first routing table comprises the IGP and EGP

forwarding entries for the first layer 3 VPN, and wherein the maintaining the first routing table includes downloading to the first routing table the first layer 3 VPN

context specific entries from the single EGP table and the first IGP table, wherein the downloading to the first routing table of the first layer 3 VPN context EGP

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forwarding entries from the single EGP table uses the data structure; and

maintaining on the single network element a separate VPN context specific second routing table and a second IGP table for the second layer 3 VPN context, wherein

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the second IGP table comprises IGP forwarding entries for the second layer 3 VPN context and the second routing table comprises IGP and EGP forwarding

entries for the second layer 3 VPN, and wherein the maintaining the second routing table includes downloading to the second routing table the second layer 3

VPN context specific entries from the single EGP table and the second IGP table, wherein the downloading to the second routing table of the second layer 3 VPN

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context EGP forwarding entries from the single EGP table uses the data structure.

23. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable storage medium that stores instructions, which when executed by a set of one or more processors, cause said set of one or more processors to perform operations comprising:

maintaining a set of information for a first layer 3 virtual private network (VPN) context, the first set of information for including a first value identifying the first layer 3 VPN context;

separately maintaining a second set of information for a second layer 3 VPN context, the second set of information for including a second value identifying the second layer 3 VPN context, wherein the first and second sets of information corresponds to a first and second customers accessing a backbone and maintained within a single network element of the backbone, and wherein the first and second sets of information include sufficient information to establish the first and second layer 3 VPN contexts with other network elements of the backbone for the first and second customer respectively;

associating the first value with a route distinguisher (RD);

associating the second value with a second RD;

maintaining a data structure for a single exterior gateway protocol (EGP) to perform mappings between the first value and the first RD and between the second value and the second RD;

performing mappings between the first value and the first RD and between the second value and the second RD with the data structure;

maintaining on a single network element the single EGP table for the first and second layer 3 VPN contexts, wherein the single EGP table comprises EGP forwarding entries for the first and second layer 3 VPN contexts;

maintaining on the single network element a separate VPN context specific first routing table and a first interior gateway protocol (IGP) table for the first layer 3 VPN context, wherein the first IGP table comprises IGP forwarding entries for the first layer 3 VPN context and the first routing table comprises the IGP and EGP

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forwarding entries for the first layer 3 VPN, and wherein the maintaining the first routing table includes downloading to the first routing table the first layer 3 VPN context specific entries from the single EGP table and the first IGP table, wherein the downloading to the first routing table of the first layer 3 VPN context EGP forwarding entries from the single EGP table uses the data structure; and maintaining on the single network element a separate VPN context specific second routing table and a second IGP table for the second layer 3 VPN context, wherein the second IGP table comprises IGP forwarding entries for the second layer 3 VPN context and the second routing table comprises IGP and EGP forwarding entries for the second layer 3 VPN, and wherein the maintaining the second routing table includes downloading to the second routing table the second layer 3 VPN context specific entries from the single EGP table and the second IGP table, wherein the downloading to the second routing table of the second layer 3 VPN context EGP forwarding entries from the single EGP table uses the data structure.

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30. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable storage medium that stores instructions, which when executed by a set of one or more processors, cause said set of one or more processors to perform operations comprising:

- maintaining a first set of information for a first layer 3 virtual private network (VPN) context, the set of information for including a first value identifying the first layer 3 VPN context;
- separately maintaining a second set of information for a second layer 3 VPN context, the second set of information including a second value identifying the second layer 3 VPN context, wherein the first and second sets of information corresponds to a first and second customers accessing a backbone and maintained within a single network element of the backbone, and wherein the first and second sets of information include sufficient information to establish the first and second layer 3 VPN contexts with other network elements of the backbone for the first and second customer respectively;

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associating the first value with a first route distinguisher;
associating the second value with a second route distinguisher;
maintaining on a single network element a single exterior gateway protocol (EGP) table
for the first and second layer 3 VPN contexts, wherein the single EGP table
comprises EGP forwarding entries for the first and second layer 3 VPN contexts;

~~maintaining a data structure for the single EGP table, the data structure indicating the
association between first value and the first route distinguisher and between the
second value and the second route distinguisher;~~

~~performing mappings between the first value and the first route distinguisher and between
the second value and the second route distinguisher with the data structure~~

maintaining on the single network element a separate VPN context specific first routing
table and a first interior gateway protocol (IGP) table for the first layer 3 VPN

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context, wherein the first IGP table comprises interior gateway protocol (IGP)

forwarding entries for the first layer 3 VPN context and the first routing table

comprises the IGP and EGP forwarding entries for the first layer 3 VPN, and

wherein the maintaining the first routing table includes downloading to the first

routing table the first layer 3 VPN context specific entries from the single EGP

table and the first IGP table, wherein the downloading to the first routing table of

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the first layer 3 VPN context EGP forwarding entries from the single EGP table

uses the data structure; and

maintaining on the single network element a separate VPN context specific second

~~routing table and a second IGP table for the second layer 3 VPN context, wherein~~

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the second IGP table comprises IGP forwarding entries for the second layer 3

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VPN context and the second routing table comprises IGP and EGP forwarding

entries for the second layer 3 VPN, and wherein the maintaining the second

routing table includes downloading to the second routing table the second layer 3

VPN context specific entries from the single EGP table and the second IGP table,

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wherein the downloading to the second routing table of the second layer 3 VPN

context EGP forwarding entries from the single EGP table uses the data structure.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The primary reason for allowance of the claims is because the prior art made of record fails to teach and/or suggest:

“maintaining on a single network element a single exterior gateway protocol (EGP) table for the first and second layer 3 VPN contexts, wherein the single EGP table comprises EGP forwarding entries for the first and second layer 3 VPN contexts; maintaining a data structure for the single EGP table, the data structure indicating the association between first value and the first route distinguisher and between the second value and the second route distinguisher; performing mappings between the first value and the first route distinguisher and between the second value and the second route distinguisher with the data structure; maintaining on the single network element a separate VPN context specific first routing table and a first interior gateway protocol (IGP) table for the first layer 3 VPN context, wherein the first IGP table comprises IGP forwarding entries for the first layer 3 VPN context and the first routing table comprises the IGP and EGP forwarding entries for the first layer 3 VPN, and wherein the maintaining the first routing table includes downloading to the first routing table the first layer 3 VPN context specific entries from the single EGP table and the first IGP table, wherein the downloading to the first routing table of the first layer 3 VPN context EGP forwarding entries from the single EGP table uses the data structure; and maintaining on the single network element a separate VPN context specific second routing table and a second IGP table for the second layer 3 VPN context, wherein the second IGP table comprises IGP forwarding entries for the second layer 3 VPN context and the second routing table comprises IGP and EGP forwarding entries for the second layer 3 VPN, and wherein the maintaining the second routing table includes downloading to the second routing table the second layer 3

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VPN context specific entries from the single EGP table and the second IGP table, wherein the downloading to the second routing table of the second layer 3 VPN context EGP forwarding entries from the single EGP table uses the data structure”.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 6/4/08 was filed after the mailing date of the Final Rejection on 2/4/08. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KAMAL B. DIVECHA whose telephone number is (571)272-5863. The examiner can normally be reached on Increased Flex Work Schedule.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Follansbee can be reached on 571-272-3964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Kamal Divecha
Art Unit 2151
/John Follansbee/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2151